

# Ravi Lee – UF in London

**Major:** Business Administration

## **I studied abroad because...**

I wanted to slip out of my comfort zone in a new environment and push my ability to adapt. I thought by testing my weaknesses in a foreign place, I can realize what makes me strong. I figured that by living in a new place, I can learn a little more about myself.

## **One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad:**

I scrambled to decide what to pack. I was about to go to London during peak winter, and as a born and raised Floridian, the coldest I had ever known was 70 degrees. I initially thought study abroad would be too expensive, but there are several scholarships and other resources (Florida Prepaid, Bright Futures) that make it completely possible!

## **A typical meal I had while studying abroad:**

I had tea almost every day, along with a croissant or some sandwich. I tried to change it up for dinner, but fish and chips slipped in a lot.

## **My favorite spot in my host city was...**

a bridge over the Thames river that lead up to Parliament and Big Ben. If you stand in the center of the bridge, you can see such an amazing view of London, and watch the city lights reflect off the water.

## **One cool event I got to experience while abroad:**

I got to camp out for a night in the Sahara Desert, which is something I will always remember. The scenery was beautiful, and I could see a seemingly never-ending ocean of sand that stretched out in front of me. When the sun sank down, the stars and moonlight seemed so close and bright.

## **The most memorable experience for me while abroad:**

While in Italy, I got to eat in the restaurant where pizza was invented!

## **A habit I picked up while abroad:**

In London, most people say "cheers" instead of "thank you". After about two months, the saying started to stick into my speech, and I would even say it to friends on the phone and most likely confuse them.

## **What I found most challenging while abroad:**

I found the London rush hour to be extremely difficult to navigate on my way home from work. However, this challenge forced to me really learn the city since I began to explore alternate ways of getting home by using shortcuts. By the end of the trip, I knew many parts of the city like the back of my hand.

## **What surprised me most about study abroad was...**

how easy it was to make friends. I became very close with my roommates and met several locals that I still talk to today.

## **My last bit of advice:**

I want to stress to keep an open mind and jump into situations that you may feel uncomfortable about. I would sometimes be nervous to go out with locals by myself, but those moments ended up being some of the most rewarding.